

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USINT HAVANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4193

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PDIP PINT AO PO
SUBJ: ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR ARRIVES; CDS MINISTER TO
VISIT LUANDA

REF: (A) LISBON 719 (NOTAL; (B) LISBON A-42 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

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SUMMARY: ADRIANO JOAO SEBASTIAO, ANGOLA'S FIRST AMBASSADOR
TO PORTUGAL, ARRIVED IN LISBON JUNE 3. THE GOP ANNOUNCED
THAT COMMERCE AND TOURISM MINISTER BASILIO HORTA, ONE OF
THREE CDS MINISTERS, WILL TRAVEL TO LUANDA IN JULY.
END SUMMARY.

1. GPRA AMBASSADOR ARRIVES: ADRIANO JOAO SEBASTIAO,

ANGOLA'S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL, ARRIVED IN LISBON JUNE 3 (BIO MATERIAL SENT REF B). IN ARRIVAL STATEMENTS, SEBASTIAO SAID:

--PRESIDENTS EANES AND NETO WILL MEET SOON IN ONE OF THE FORMER COLONIES, BUT NOT IN ANGOLA. SEBASTIAO WOULD NOT CONFIRM OR DENY THAT THE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE JUNE 26 IN BISSAU AS RUMORED.

--MAJOR MELO ANTUNES' VISIT TO LUANDA IN MAY ADVANCED HIS OWN ARRIVAL DATE IN LISBON, AND HAD "GREAT INFLUENCE" IN THE RELEASE AND REPATRIATION OF MAJOR COSTA MARTINS, LEFTIST MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT AND FORMER PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT LABOR MINISTER. (COMMENT: MARTINS HAD BEEN JAILED IN LUANDA FOR SUSPECTED COMPLICITY IN THE MAY 1977 ATTEMPTED COUP IN LUANDA. HE WAS BRIEFLY JAILED, THEN FREED ON BOND AFTER ARRIVING IN LISBON).

2. HORTA TO LUANDA: COMMERCE AND TOURISM MINISTER BASILIO HORTA, ONE OF THREE CDS MINISTERS, WILL TRAVEL TO LUANDA IN JULY WHILE HIS GPRA COUNTERPART WILL VISIT PORTUGAL. THE VISIT WAS ANNOUNCED IN NEW YORK BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SA MACHADO (ALSO CDS) FOLLOWING TALKS WITH GPRA PRIME MINISTER LOPO DO NASCIMENTO AND GPRA FOREIGN MINISTER PAULO JORGE. SA MACHADO ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD PROPOSED A GENERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO THE ANGOLANS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. COMMENT: THE SUDDEN ARRIVAL OF SEBASTIAO AFTER A LONG DELAY, THE MEETINGS BETWEEN SA MACHADO AND ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES IN NEW YORK, THE FORTHCOMING EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY TRADE MINISTERS, AND A POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN EANES AND NETO ARE MAJOR STEPS FORWARD IN THE OFTEN TROUBLED GOP-GPRA RELATIONS. THE PORTUGUESE WILL ALSO VIEW THESE STEPS AS A SETBACK TO THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS, WHO THE PORTUGUESE BELIEVE HAVE OPPOSED ANY IMPROVEMENT IN GOP-GPRA RELATIONS. BUT SUCH PROGRESS COMES AFTER MONTHS OF STALLING BY THE ANGOLANS, WHOSE MISTRUST OF THE PORTUGUESE STEMS FROM, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE BAD PRESS GIVEN ANGOLA IN RIGHT-WING PORTUGUESE NEWSPAPERS, THE ACTIVITIES OF UNITA AND THE FNLA IN PORTUGAL, AND SUSPICION OF THE CDS IN THE GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT EANES, THROUGH EMISSARIES SUCH AS ANTUNES, LETTERS TO NETO, AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS, HAS WORKED HARD TO DISPEL THE ANGOLANS' SUSPICIONS. SEBASTIAO'S PRAISE FOR MELO ANTUNES INDICATES THAT EANES'S EFFORTS HAVE BEGUN TO PAY OFF. BLOOMFIELD

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